FISCAL NOTE

SB 247 - HB 808

February 27, 2003

SUMMARY OF BILL:

- Allows a full-time certified teacher to enroll at any state-supported university, college, or area vocational-technical school without paying tuition charges, maintenance fees, student activity fees, or registration fees, for courses that lead to, or are required for, the teacher's certification or subject area endorsement in subject areas of need in teaching.
- Provides that courses leading to certification in nursing would be available to Tennessee students from areas in which a shortage of nurses exists, without paying tuition charges, maintenance fees, student activity fees, or registration fees.
- Provides that enrollment privileges may be limited or denied on an individual basis according to space availability. Enrollment would be on a first-come, first-serve basis, and no tuition-paying student would be denied enrollment in a course due to enrollment pursuant to this bill.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - **Exceeds $4,000,000**

Estimate assumes:
- Teachers taking courses in the summer will take a minimum of one course at no cost.
- Teachers taking courses for certification purposes will do so at no cost.
- The cost for a one three-hour course was calculated for each higher education institution and multiplied by the actual number of teachers taking education courses (10,049) during the summer of 2002. If each of these teachers took one free course, the increase in state expenditures is estimated to be $4,418,469.
- According to the higher education institutions, currently there are waiting lists for all nursing programs. Therefore, no free courses could be provided under the *space availability clause* of this bill. Should this clause be removed, state expenditures are expected to increase significantly for this one group.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

James A. Davenport

James A. Davenport, Executive Director